

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Add subsection (b)(6.5) of Section 7.50
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Antelope Lake Tributaries (Plumas County)

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: August 25, 2006

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

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| (a) | Notice Hearing: | Date: August 4, 2006
Location: Sacramento, CA |
| (b) | Discussion Hearing: | Date: October 6, 2006
Location: San Diego, CA |
| (c) | Discussion Hearing: | Date: November 3, 2006
Location: Redding, CA |
| (d) | Adoption Hearing: | Date: December 8, 2006
Location: Santa Monica, CA |

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

Antelope Lake tributaries are currently regulated for trout fishing according to the Sierra District general regulations, which allow for trout fishing in streams from the last Saturday in April through November 15. Spawning rainbow trout generally migrate from Antelope Lake to reproduce in Antelope Lake tributaries during mid-February through April. It has come to the Department's attention that a significant number of trout are still spawning in late April. The trout are highly vulnerable to harvest and harassment by anglers while spawning in the tributaries. This proposal would delay the opening of trout season in Antelope Lake tributaries approximately one month until the Saturday preceding Memorial Day. The end of trout season would remain unchanged at November 15, and bag limits would remain unchanged. The season change would be implemented by adding Antelope Lake tributaries to the alphabetical list of waters with special fishing regulations. This angling regulation amendment would offer added protection and enhancement for the naturally reproduced wild component of the Antelope Lake and Antelope Lake tributary trout populations. Additionally, this proposed regulation would create consistency with the opening dates for other major Plumas County lakes (Almanor Lake, Bucks Lake, Butt Lake, and Davis Lake).

- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Section(s) 200, 202, 205, 215, 220, and 315, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Section(s) 200, 205, 206, and 215, Fish and Game Code.

- (c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

- (d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

- (e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

No public meetings are being held prior to the notice publication. The 45-day comment period provides adequate time for review of the proposed amendment.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No reasonable alternatives exist that would allow for both protection of spring spawning fish and reasonable angling season with the associated harvest of fish during an appropriate time period.

- (b) No Change Alternative:

The changes are necessary to protect wild spring spawning fish in Antelope Lake tributaries.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations increase fishing opportunities.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New

Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None.

- (h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

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